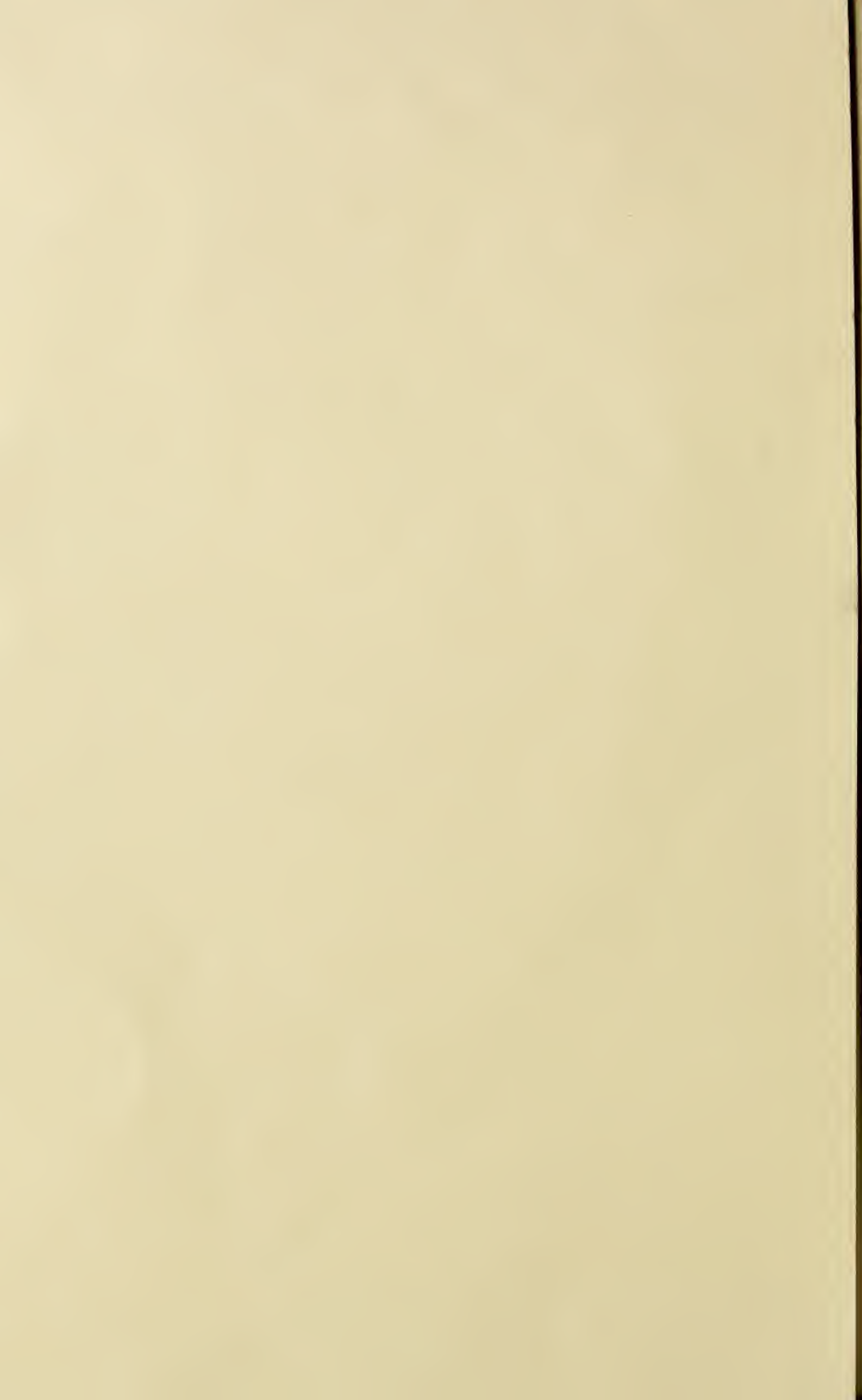


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THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

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OUR LONDON LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence.)

LONDON, England, Dec. 6th, 1880.

The Great Eastern steamship has been definitely chartered for ten years to carry dead meat to the United Kingdom from the American seaboard or the River Plata. It is calculated that from Texas or the Argentine Provinces beef of prime quality can be laid down in England at three cents per lb. The promoters of this bold scheme intend to slaughter the cattle on board the great ship, and for this purpose they have secured the services of trained butchers from the slaughter-houses of Chicago. The dressed meat will be in refrigerators, and it is estimated that 10,000 to 15,000 carcasses of beef, all hung—equal to 3,000 or 4,000 tons of meat—will be shipped each voyage. The result of this enterprise, if successful, will have a far wider bearing than appears at first sight. It will be watched with much interest by the public, no doubt, for notwithstanding the large imports of fresh meats we are receiving, retail prices still rule very high. But it will also break down that “ring,” which, while reaping immense profits, keeps almost at famine prices one of the first food requisites of the people.

The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* calls attention to a new method of stalling cattle on board ocean steamers, the object of which is to make the conveyance of cattle from America more safe and profitable

than it has been thus far. It is a recent American invention, the full details of which are not yet made known, and consists of what is called a “platform stall,” capable of holding eight animals. It is suspended by chains, so that it remains perfectly level when the vessel rolls, like the glass racks fitted in steamers’ cabins. The success of such a plan remains to be proved. The journal alluded to puts the question of providing better accommodation for cattle on ocean boats from a humanitarian point of view, and says:

“It is, in truth, a matter of more than mere trading and commercial interest; for, inasmuch as a great mortality and loss of cattle at sea means also a greater amount of agony and distress to them, so it is fast becoming a question, not only ‘Will it pay?’ ‘but shall it be permitted?’ if better and more merciful methods of conveyance are not soon adopted.”

Of course, there is, and must be, a great deal of suffering connected with the transit of live animals by rail and by sea, especially by sea, which is inseparable from the traffic itself. The long journeys which have to be endured by United States cattle in railway cars, before their ocean troubles come upon them, *must* entail great suffering and great waste. A traffic in fresh meat would be far safer—from a sanitary point of view—far less wasteful, and far more humane. We fear, however, that no mere humanitarian consideration will ever suffice to alter the features of this trade; but any scheme which will entail less waste—if not attended by too great a cost—will, no doubt, be carefully considered.

Farm Work for February.

There are years in which February furnishes such weather that much field work can be done, but such is not likely to be the case this year, judging from present appearances, (15th January,) when the earth is frozen and covered with snow, but there may be a sudden change, and this month prove to be favorable for farm work. Our climate is so variable that it is well to be prepared at all times to embrace opportunities offered by its changes. Therefore, if the season be propitious, and the ground dry enough, advantages should be taken of such favorable conditions. But under any circumstances the farmer should not be idle this month, as much work may be done, such as securing a plentiful supply of firewood, cut and corded for the next season, fence rails and posts gotten out and fences repaired, ditches cleaned out, and compost heaps made. The barn-yard manure should be turned and properly manipulated, so that continual fermentation may go on without danger of becoming overheated and fire-fanged. This attention to the manure heaps of the barn-yards and stables is too often neglected, and much loss is annually sustained by our farmers through this neglect.

WINTER PLOWING.

If opportunity offers, do not neglect to push on with the winter plowing, particularly in all stiff land, or lands that have a heavy turf or much vegetable growth to be turned under.

OATS.

The sooner oats are seeded after the ground is in order for plowing, the better will be the crop. The soil best adapted for oats is a heavy loam, cool and rather moist. Dry, gravelly and sandy soils do not suit this crop. As a rule, however, compact soils lying cool and containing much vegetable matter, as from rotting turf, are decidedly best for producing large crops of oats, whose principal constituents are pot-

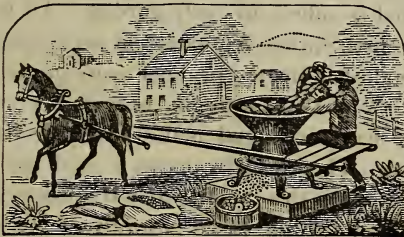
ash, lime, soda and the phosphates. Hence the best fertilizers for oats on impoverished soils, are bone meal, wood ashes, and magnesian lime. If a compost be used, we would recommend it to be made of 10 bushels of fine ground bone, 10 of unleached ashes, 1 bushel of plaster, and 4 of salt, mixed well and left standing for a few days before using. There is too much carelessness generally practiced in the selection of field seeds, especially in oats and rye. How often is it seen that on good land, well prepared, oats are sown which are so light that the gentlest breeze will blow them about so that the seeding is very irregular. We have seen oats sown that did not weigh 20 pound to the bushel. The standard weight of this grain is anyway too low, being only 32 lbs. to the bushel, while really good oats fit for seed should weigh 36 lbs. Prime oats do often weigh 40 lbs. and over to the bushel. Perhaps, if the standard weight of this grain was increased, there would be more attention to sowing only heavy oats, and thereby the general average weight would be soon increased. In selecting seed one should try to secure seed of the heaviest and most prolific kinds, if he has to pay double price for the same. We would advise our friends to try each year a small quantity of some new and popular variety, that by actual test they may secure prime seed for another year's crop. There is a variety called the "Russian White Oats," which has been tried in small quantities in every part of the country, and astonishing reports have been made in most instances. The yield in most cases has been 70 to 100 bushels per acre, and the weight per bushel, generally 36 lbs. It would be well for our friends to try a few pounds, and thus, if it proves what it is said to be, secure seed enough for next year's planting.

STOCK OF ALL KINDS.

Stock of all kinds need good attention, warm shelter, a plentiful supply of food, good dry bedding, free access to pure water,

salt and occasional exercise. Look particularly after the cows and mares that may be near their time to bring forth their young. Ewes that have young lambs, or are about to year, should have quiet quarters to themselves and be fed well besides, at least once a day, a good feed of turnips.

How often shall we reiterate our conviction that true economy consists in liberal feeding of stock, and to make that feeding properly tell, there must be comfortable protection from the damaging effects of cold and wet. To have the latter, it is easy to provide shelter warm and dry, at little expense, where poles, brush or corn fodder, straw and leaves are to be had with little trouble or expense. To economize grain food it should be ground; peas, corn, rye, oats, all should be ground and mixed with cut straw or hay. As to corn, it has become almost a necessity with farmers to grind it, cob and grain together. Since



chemical analysis has shown the great value of the cob, this great product of America is no longer fed on the ear to horses and other stock, by go-ahead, progressive farmers. They no longer are willing to lose one-fifth of their stock food by throwing away the cobs of corn. The best farmers and stockmen grind their corn unshelled, and save not only the shelling, but add a fifth more to the weight as well as to the value of the food, by grinding the corn on the cob. The best machine for this purpose is beyond all doubt the "Young America Corn and Cob Mill," an illustration of which we are enabled to give through the courtesy of Messrs. E. Whitman, Sons, and Co., of this city.

Thousands of these mills are sold yearly,

and give the satisfaction to the purchaser of finding that he is repaid in one season, three times over the cost, in the improved condition of his stock and in the saving of feed, beside the time labor and expense of shelling, hauling, and paying toll at a distant mill, when he wants his corn or other grains ground for feeding his stock.

ORCHARDS.

Prune the old trees and carefully scrape the bark. Wash with a mixture of soft soap, salt and ashes, each one pint, reduced by water to the consistency of thick white-wash, and applied by use of a white-wash brush or swab like a mop. Wash the bodies and the larger limbs. Loosen the earth about the roots; dig in around each tree one peck of lime and ashes mixed together and if the soil is exhausted, top dress it well with coarse manure and plow the whole carefully, taking care not to injure the bodies of the trees with the swing-trees. Then sow over the whole, slaked lime at the rate of ten bushels per acre.

TOBACCO.

It is often that a good season for stripping tobacco comes in February, and if it does the opportunity should not be lost. This is a good month to sow tobacco seed, which should be done as soon as the ground gets in fine working order, and not until it is. Places suitable for beds, such as southern hill sides or inclines in thick woods, with high ground on the north and west sides for protection will be in good order to work, long before exposed situations. After all, we cannot advise any better method than that of the old time for preparing the bed. This was a heavy burning with brush and digging and raking and hoeing, until it gets into the finest tilth, then sow and tramp with the feet. Cover with brush from evergreens. Just before it is raked for the last time, prior to sowing, give it a broadcast of guano, at the rate of 600 lbs. per acre; or if no guano, before the last chopping with the hoes, spread over the bed a heavy dressing of well rotted fine

horse manure, in which there are no grass seed. Sheep manure mixed with cow manure is also a good dressing. It is a good plan to remove the brush when the plants begin to appear, and top dress the bed with a mixture of 1 part plaster, 1 part soot and leashed ashes, and 2 parts of fine stable manure, well rotted and dry. This will tend to keep off the fly and stimulate the growth of the plants. Return the brush unless the weather be very mild.

SOWING CLOVER SEED.

There are few farmers who sow enough seed to the acre, being often deterred by the price of the seed, which we fear will be the case this year. But it is poor economy to higgler about the price, or be stingy in the quantity to be sown of this very valuable seed. Whether considered as a covering crop to the land, as a fertilizer, or as a forage plant, clover is doubtless indispensable in good farming. Turned under in the Fall of the year, it is the best preparation for a wheat crop of any that can be had, from the fact that its ashes contain all the chief constituents that constitute the food of the wheat plant, and without which this important grain cannot flourish. Clover seed should always be sowed in February, March, or April, among the winter grain, wheat and rye, and among that seeded in Spring, like oats and Spring wheat. A good way is to sow in February on a light snow, or when the ground is cracked open thawing in the day and freezing at night. Never sow less than one gallon of seed per acre, if with other grasses, and not less than two gallons, if sowed alone. If sown in March and the ground is hard and dry, it should be harrowed in and then rolled. This secures it being well covered for prompt vegetation, and does the small grain much good as it is a working of the soil about the roots of the grain, and then the roller closes the loosened earth and makes firm many plants that the winter frosts have so pushed out that the drying winds of Spring would otherwise destroy by parch-

ing the exposed roots. In April, the seed should, if not sown until then, be harrowed and rolled when sown on winter grain. This is not necessary where the land has been recently plowed and harrowed, and lays fresh and loose, yet we like in that case to brush it in or roll.

It is a good plan to seed orchard grass with the clover, at the rate of two bushels of orchard grass per acre—avoiding the common fault of sowing this grass too thinly, which grows in tussocks if not sown thick. The more thickly this valuable grass, valuable for hay as well as early and late pasture, is sown, the finer will be the quality of the grass, and the heavier will be the yield per acre on suitable ground.

Garden Work for February.

It is the great aim of all who take a laudable pride in the vegetable garden, to have what is called an early garden. To have the first Spring vegetables in his neighborhood, delights the pride of every gardener. To do this, one must be provided with all the accessories and make timely preparation. There usually occurs a mild spell of weather in this month, when the balmy dry air and the increased warmth of the sun, mellows and prepares the ground so that it is fit for culture. It is in this section rather early for hotbeds, but farther south, these necessary adjuncts to early gardening, should be made at once, and seeds of lettuce, cabbage, pepper, tomatoes, &c. should be sown in time, with radish seed scattered through the bed. Each kind of seed should be sown by itself, in shallow drills, the drills three inches apart.

As soon as the ground is in order and the weather permits, beds may be prepared by heavy manuring with well rotted manure, and thorough culture with spade and rake, or by plowing, which is best as a rule. And the following seeds can be sown in the open air.

Potatoes.—Plant a bed of potatoes in drills

three inches deep and broad, with stable manure or hogs hair thick in the bottom of the drills; drop the potatoes ten or twelve inches apart, and cover over with earth to form a ridge six inches over each row. These ridges are leveled as soon as the potatoes begin to appear above ground. This will be the first working. The medium sized, well ripened potatoe is best to plant. Early Rose is the best sort, cut each bulb in half or in three parts.

Spinach.—As soon as the frost has disappeared prepare a bed for early spinach. The ground should be made rich and pulverized fine. Draw the drills a foot apart and one inch deep; sow the seed and press the earth lightly over them. That which is already growing should be worked with the hoe and the earth slightly drawn to the plants.

Beets.—Can now be sown for an early crop.

Radish.—Prepare a small bed in a warm spot, make very rich and sow radish seed, tramp it after sowing and cover with leafy brush, removing it every fine day and returning it before night.

Peas.—The pea is one of the first vegetables that may be seeded in the open ground. It is perfectly hardy, will stand a heavy frost without material injury, and yields the heaviest product when it matures before warm weather sets in. Plant, therefore, a few rows of early peas. Tom Thumb, the Gem, Carter's first crop, and Blue Peter are among the best of early dwarf peas, and repeat the seeding every two weeks for a continuous supply. In this connexion we would call attention to a very remarkable early pea which is illustrated and described in another page of this number of the Farmer, and advise every lover of peas to try a small quantity of the "Bliss American Wonder Pea." If it prove the half of what is said of it, every one should be satisfied that it is a wonderful production.

Grape Vines.—Grape vines should be carefully pruned this month, and do not be

afraid of cutting off too much wood. At a late period of the season they will be seriously injured by too profuse a flow of sap. Dig around the roots and treat them to a dressing of a mixture of lime, bone-dust and wood ashes. We have known them to do admirably after such working and manuring, by getting a heavy mulch of coal ashes, which kept down the weeds and seemed to keep the ground cool and moist and of even temperature during the hot months of summer.

Stock Law, Fences, Estrays and Trespassing Cattle, etc.

An important decision in the Circuit Court for Talbot County.

Last Tuesday, the court delivered a learned and exhaustive opinion in the case of Thomas H. Oliver vs. Harrison Price, replevin of cattle taken up for trespassing on a wheat field.

The court held that the common law in regard to trespassing cattle, etc., is in force now in Maryland, and that the rule of law is that a person is only bound to take care that his cattle do not wander from his own land and trespass upon the land of others; that a fence is for the purpose of keeping your own stock at home and not to keep other's stock off, and if any one is damaged by another's stock trespassing on his land, whether fenced in or not, whether cleared land, or wood land, or marsh land, he can recover damages from the owner of the stock so trespassing.

The court also held, that under the statute law of Maryland, (Art. 67, title "Estrays and Trespassing Cattle,") a person had three remedies for the trespass on his enclosure by any cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, or any domestic animals.

1st. He could take up the animal, and within a reasonable time thereafter go before a Justice of the Peace, and make affidavit that he took up the animal as an estray and publish said affidavit and the Justice's certificate, etc. If he complies with the law he can recover all expenses incurred by the person taking up the estray and keeping it, including the cost of advertising. If any one avails himself of this

remedy he cannot recover damages for the injury done.

2nd. Any person aggrieved by the trespass upon his enclosure of any cattle, may impound the same, and have the damages sustained by the trespass appraised by two disinterested persons, and unless the damages and a reasonable compensation for feeding the property impounded is paid, may at the expiration of ten days, sell the same at public auction, by giving the notice required by the statute. This remedy seems to apply where the owner of the cattle is not known.

3rd. If any cattle, etc., trespassing on the enclosures of any person to be distrained doing damages, the owner of which is known, if the owner do not tender compensation for the damage, within five days after such distress and notice given to him, then the party taking up such cattle, etc., may, by complying with the statute, have the property sold and retain enough to pay him for the damages he has sustained and all charges arising from such trespass.

The court did not attempt to define what was an enclosure by the statute. It held that the word enclosure as used in the statute was to be taken in its common acceptance, meaning some enclosed property, not in a technical sense. It did not say it was to be a high fence or a low fence, a strong fence or a weak one, a hedge, or embankment, it meant any enclosure whereby the land was separated from other land. But in the case of *Oliver vs. Price*, the court decided that there was an enclosure there, and the evidence was that the fence around the wheat field was only two feet high in some places.

It will thus be seen that there is a strong and efficient stock law in Talbot county, because here we have no local law in regard to fences, except division fences.

Any man aggrieved by the trespass on his property of any cattle, horses, hogs, etc., has four complete remedies, one at common law, and three by the statute law of this State, and if he choose to take all his fences down he can recover damages for any trespass on his land, and can impound, keep, and if necessary sell the animal to pay for its trespass and damage.

Any cattle, horses, hogs, etc., can be taken up and impounded, when found trespassing on the highways and public roads, by the owners of the property adjoining such roads, as the herbage, grass, etc., belong to

the owner of the adjoining property, and the public only have an easement in the said road.—*Easton Star*.

Soiling Stock.

A writer in a recent number of the *Milch Zeitung*, says that his own experience of fifty years, has taught him that regular soiling of cattle is best for the farmer and for his fields, bringing in greater profit and maintaining the fertility of the land at a higher point—that twice as much fodder can be produced on a given surface when the forage plant is allowed to grow as a cultivated crop, and reach a certain degree of maturity, than when, as in pasture, it is continually cropped off and trodden down. He believes, as do all the best German writers on the subject, that the most successful system of agriculture in the long run is that in which a large quantity of stock is kept and fed well, and a careful rotation of crops is followed, in which the same crop is never put twice in succession on the same land. The soiling system makes it easier to carry out the second part of this programme, and the greater variety of crops that can be raised on a long rotation provides a greater variety of fodder for the stock, so that these two features of the best modern agricultural practice, work admirably together. The soiling system provides a more uniform ration in respect to quantity, and avoids much loss of manure. It may be pretty safely affirmed that the droppings of cattle in the pasture are more than half wasted by drying in the sun, or by too strong dosing with manure in isolated spots here and there. Where land is cheap and abundant, and cannot be profitably cultivated and carried up to a high degree of fertility, pasturage over a large portion of the farm may be allowed, but when high farming pays, pasture land is a poor investment, and may eat up a large part of the profits from the cultivated fields.

THE Delaware beet sugar works at Riverside, have closed for the season, having exhausted the supply of beets. During the season it used 1100 tons of beets, and turned out from 100,000 to 120,000 pounds of sugar, and fifty hogsheads of molasses; about 450 tons of pulp have been sold, and 500 tons more could have been disposed of to dairymen, who used it to feed cattle, being greatly pleased with it.

HORTICULTURAL.

IN our distinguished cotemporary, the *Gardener's Monthly*, we find the following essay by Mr. R. C. McMurtrie, of Philadelphia, on a subject of great interest to our subscribers, who are, particularly in Maryland, getting rid of the old-time, bothersome gates on the public roads, and incurring thereby in many cases the necessity of extra fencing. Many on the Eastern Shore have planted hedges, that *live* may supplement the old, worm and rail or plank fences on the outlines and on public roads.

Osage Orange Hedges.

"Raising Plants.—The seed can generally be purchased of any seedsman. I bought mine at Landreth's. I soaked the seeds in water for forty-eight hours before planting. When treated thus they sprouted almost as freely as could be desired. Those not soaked came up sparsely and very badly.

"The ground was prepared as for ordinary garden seeds. The seed was placed in rows about one foot apart, and about one inch deep. I kept the plants carefully weeded from their first appearance till the autumn. The result has been that plants raised one spring, are fit for setting out as hedges the next spring.

"Preparing Ground for the Hedge.—In the autumn, the line of the ground on which the hedge is to stand is dug as a trench, about eighteen inches wide and one foot deep. The earth is laid on the side of the trench and the bottom broken with a pick. In that condition I left it during the winter, for the frost to do its work of

"Cultivating or Tilling.—In the spring, when the ground is warm enough to cause the plants to show the first symptoms of life by pushing, I put a quantity of the best barn-yard manure in the trench or ditch, and on that placed the loose earth left lying at the side during the winter. In this ground the plants were placed. If in two rows, eighteen inches apart; if in one row, nine inches apart. The latter, I am inclined to think from experience, the best for every purpose.

"The plants thus set out were kept carefully weeded and cultivated all summer. They sprouted slowly and very irregularly. But these were plants purchased. Those I grew were much quicker and more uniform. By the end of July, nearly every plant was growing. In one instance, by count, I found but two out of two hundred and eighty failed.

"Subsequent Treatment.—In the autumn the plants treated as above stated, had grown in single stems, from three to six feet high, depending on the earlier or later start. The stems were quite thick.

"These I laid down without cutting, nicking or breaking, by simply bending them nearly flat to the ground, and weaving them as one would osiers in wicker work. There is little elasticity but great toughness in the wood, and the thorns secure them in place when bent and woven, without tying or any other sort of fastening.

"The next year the hedge started with an average height of six inches from the ground of the stems, thus lying laterally along the ground. The leaf buds sent up shoots similar to those of the first year, but thicker and higher; many grew eight feet. The ground was cultivated with a hoe and weeded. In the autumn these stems were again laid down, without nicking, breaking or cutting. This made a hedge of lateral stems about eighteen inches from the ground.

"The next summer the shoots grew, the upright ones much more vigorously than the laterals. When the upright shoots reached three feet or more, I cut the tops with a sickle at the height I determined.

"This was repeated at intervals, whenever there were a few inches of growth above the line determined, from time to time, as the height of the hedge. This permitted the shorter and weaker stems to grow without checking until they reached the proper line.

"The result was that in the third summer from setting out the plants there was a good hedge, sufficient to turn ordinary cattle as it seemed. Certainly in all subsequent years it was impervious to man or beast. And it had a foundation as firm as a fence.

"Cutting.—If this is done when the plants are young, they are so succulent that an amateur can readily trim two hundred feet in an hour and feel no fatigue.

"Laying down.—I have this year adopted a plan that I deem a great improvement, and I have done it with stems varying from a quarter to an inch in diameter, thus: I cut off with nippers a number of stems to the height of two feet, so that a stem left at each end of the cutting when laid down, and woven into the upright cut stems would cross each other, and give at least two lines of lateral stems passing in and out of the stumps of the cut stems, thus giving a living fence of about two feet high. I expect to trim the growth from these next summer to about three feet high, leaving the laterals to grow with little or no trimming, to form the hedge into a pyramidal form, which is essential, as lower branches will not flourish if upper branches overhang them.

"If any one can show more perfect hedges that have thus been produced, I have yet to see or hear of them."

Put Clover on your Land.

An Ohio paper says that by clovering, hundreds of farms that were about worthless have been rescued from dilapidation and ruin. It is an accepted truism that, as long as "clover will catch," the farm can soon be restored to paying fertility, and by a good rotation is even getting more productive and profitable; for after some years of such treatment the land will bear harder farming—that is, two or three crops may succeed a good coat of clover before laying down to clover again. Rough new land should be subdued by the use of large clover. Nothing so effectually rots out stumps, and kills weeds and sprouts, and prepares the land for the plow and good paying crops. Wild, new lands should always have it sown on the first grain crop down. It saves a vast amount of labor, for in a few years it so tames the ground, and clears it of the enemies to the plow, that it works like old ground and is good for full crops. One great error is often fallen into, and that is, following the old tradition that a bushel of clover seed will do for eight acres. That may have been enough to clover land partially when it was new, but whoever aims at getting up his land in a speedy and profitable way, should sow a bushel on four acres, so that his land may be thoroughly shaded,

Keeping Onions.

I make as deep a pit as I can with the plow for onions and cabbages, in a dry, sheltered place near the house, scraping out all the loose dirt with a hoe, and putting in some chaff or straw from the straw stack, and tramping down well. Then I haul the onions from where they grew and pile them in carefully on this, and put more chaff on top and cover up with a foot of dirt from each side, and pack smooth with the spade, where they can remain a part or all of the Winter, or until wanted. They were quoted at \$1.25 last Winter and Spring in my market. If they freeze it will make no difference; they will come out all right when the frost leaves the ground. Cabbages may be pulled up on a dry day and packed in the other end of the pit, roots up, and also covered with straw and dirt, when they or the onions can be taken out as wanted. The cellar is one of the worst places to keep onions or cabbages in, as it is almost always too damp or warm.—*Cor. N. Y. Sun.*

Dried Fruit.

An enormous increase in the evaporated fruit business is taking place in Western New York, the recent legal decision that there is no monopoly of the sulphur process of bleaching, having had a stimulating effect on the industry. The opinion of American experts is, that the fruit can be dried by the evaporator cheaper than by sunlight, and the product is immeasurably better. A single New York firm last year evaporated twenty thousand bushels, and bought fruit evaporated by others, equivalent to three hundred thousand bushels. Of this a London house took one hundred and sixty tons, and has doubled its order. The growers throughout New York State are preparing to develop the foreign market for this product. Each evaporator will dry one hundred bushels of apples a day. Girls are employed at the work, and earn from sixty cents to a dollar a day. After the apples are pared and sliced, which is performed at one operation, they are bleached by exposure to sulphur fumes for about an hour; afterwards they are evaporated, and the double process keeps them edible for an almost indefinite period,

DWARF PEAS.

The great advantage of Dwarf Peas in not requiring "brushing" has always made them favorites in the garden. From the days of the "Dwarf Spanish," and "Early Frame," although gradual improvements have been made in this class, no variety was found to combine all the desirable qualities, until Mr. Charles Arnold, who has made



BLISS AMERICAN WONDER PEA.

hybridizing and crossing a specialty, succeeded in producing a variety—Bliss American Wonder—which leaves nothing to be desired. It is a cross between "Little Gem" and "Champion of England," and combines in an exceptional degree the good qualities of both its parents: dwarf habit, earliness, productiveness, hardiness and excellent quality. Our illustration is taken from a photograph, reduced to one-half its

actual size and gives an excellent representation of the habit and productiveness of the plant. It is so dwarf and bushy as not to require more space between the rows than Lettuce or Radishes, and its great earliness admits of the raising of several crops from the same ground in one season, furnishing more Peas from the same area than any other kind. For forcing under glass, and as a very early garden variety it has no superior, and taking all its desirable qualities together, if we were restricted to the planting of one single kind of Peas, we would choose "Bliss American Wonder."—*The American Garden.*

[We are indebted to Messrs. Bliss for the above illustration of this truly "American Wonder Pea." EDs MD. FAR.]

For the Maryland Farmer.

Horticulture in Maryland up to 1880.

BY JOHN FEAST.

[Continued from page 12.]

Mr. Charles J. Baker has a fine residence four miles out on the Frederick road, standing on high ground, but which is undulating and rolling. The house is surrounded by shade trees, evergreens, flowering shrubs and flower borders, and beds in neat designs, which are filled in summer with choice bedding plants. Everything is neat and clean and in fine order. There are two green-houses for plants, of which there is a fair collection, among which are several good Camellias; one house for roses planted out, which afford many flowers. There are two houses for grapes, now in fine condition, having the finest foliage imaginable and loaded with large bunches of fruit, which shows good management and care on the part of the gardener, Daniel Thorley, who has lived with Mr. Baker for several years. Mr. Thorley proves his industry in the large quantity of vegetables he grows, in the culture of which he devotes most of his time, and hence deserves much credit for the nice manner in which the ornamental grounds are kept.

[We regret that since Mr. Feast wrote

this, Mr. Baker had the misfortune to lose his fine dwelling by fire.—Eds. MD. FAR.]

Mr. William Frick has a residence on a steep bluff, sloping to the north, where are planted in beds, shrubs and flowers, and flower borders around the house for bedding out plants. There are some nice evergreens with other fine trees on the lawn. This place can be seen at a great distance, as it occupies about the highest point in the whole of Baltimore county. From it splendid views of the Chesapeake and the surrounding country are to be had, and on a clear day the Eastern Shore is quite visible. The two green-houses are well filled with plants and flowers chiefly of the old varieties. The grape house is stocked mainly with Hamburg and Muscat and the vines being quite old are at their best now and produce fine crops. There are quantities of strawberries, raspberries and pears grown here, besides, violets and vegetables are extensively raised in frames, all of which, after the family are supplied, yield considerable revenue. The place is kept in tolerably fair condition.

CLIFTON, is the celebrated estate which the late owner, Johns Hopkins, devised to the city of Baltimore for the public benefit. It was left in charge of trustees named in the will, and they have rented the extensive grape-houses and green-houses and orchards to Mr. Wm. Fowler, the former gardener, who devotes his time to the production and sale of flowers and fruits, so that the ornamented walks and drives are not now as well kept as when Mr. Hopkins lived. Clifton was for many years noted for splendid grapes and fruits, exotic plants and rare trees and many other attractive features which made it a place of great resort for citizens and strangers visiting the city. It is yet a splendid estate and in time will be the seat of a great University endowed most liberally by the generous owner of Clifton.

Mr. John W. Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Co. has a fine

estate on the Hillen road, five miles north of the city. It is a large tract of land lying some distance off the road, and is chiefly cultivated in farm crops, and for pasturage of finely improved stock. The main walk and drive leads to the mansion, through a grove of native forest trees, with shrubbery and flower beds around and near the house. At a little distance in front of the house is a low flat, on which are erected a range of houses on the most approved plan, for plants and grapes. One is devoted specially to cut flowers. Here is a fair collection of plants and some old specimens now rarely to be found. The plants are generally in good condition, yielding a profusion of flowers, still there is a lack of richness of variety, by the absence of many of the new sorts of plants found in other green houses, this happens perhaps, not for want of taste, *but for want of money*. As for the grapes, few excel the size of bunches of grapes grown in this grapery, and they usually bear fine crops of delicious fruit. This country seat is so situated as to make it one of the prettiest places around Baltimore, but it is comparatively new and offers inducements for great improvement, presenting a field for the exercise of taste in further ornamentation and the development of its natural beauty. As it is, the grounds are taken good care of by the efficient gardener, Mr. John Cohue.

Mr. William T. Walters resides near Govanstown, four miles north of Baltimore, on Woodbourn Avenue. The dwelling is of modern style and stands amidst slightly undulating grounds planted with trees and evergreens, flowering shrubs and foliage plants. Borders for plants and flowers are tastefully interspersed. There is a range of buildings for plants and flowers, and a fine grapery filled with vines in fine condition. Fine crops of grapes are produced with large bunches of fruit of extra size, under the "spurring system." Mr. Frazier, the gardener, understands growing grapes, and he shows by his works his skill in not

only cultivating the grape, but other plants. The collection is only limited, but always has a profusion of flowers for the home demand. There are some large specimens, which under his care are superb plants. Here are tree-ferns, Hybiscuses, Dracenas, and many other interesting plants. He has raised some fine new Arbutelons, from seed, well worthy of notice. There is a lake forming the south and east side of the space devoted to the flowers, which are arranged in beds and borders, with clumps of the best varieties of roses. A little off are frames for violets, and for growing early vegetables. The grounds are kept neat and clean by the gardener, having a sufficient force allowed him by Mr. Walters, who is a gentleman of great taste, and also a liberal promoter of art and science.

Mr. Ernest Hoen has a nice little place at the village of Waverly, where the grounds are kept in good order. Being a lover of flowers he has secured a good selection of plants, but confines himself rather to a choice selection of particular kinds, such as Gloxinias, Gesnerias, Neigleas, Achemenies, Begonias and the bulbous rooted green house tribes, having produced at times some fine specimens, and raised from seed some superb Gloxinias. His collection is not large but well grown, under the care of Mr. Hess, his gardener. Mr. Hoen is fond of herbaceous plants, and in his grounds, connected with those of his brother, Mr. Augustus Hoen, are seen a numerous variety. The lawns are planted with flowering shrubs, trees and evergreens, showing flourishing, fine specimens. Rhododendrons planted in shady borders, flower well, and stand the winters uninjured. There are three green houses, and several frames to grow plants, which seem to do well, having last season a bloom of pansies superior to any I have ever seen in this section. The carnations likewise were excellent, of which fine seedlings were in flower, one was a rich scarlet of good form and a perpetual bloomer. For an amateur

his grounds reflect great credit on him, as they will vie successfully, in order and management, with any of the best of those of greater pretentions.

Mr. Henry Taylor has more extensive grounds, adjoining Mr. Hoen, with a fine dwelling surrounded by trees, shrubbery and flower borders for bedding plants. He has two houses built for flowers and vines. Some good bunches of grapes have been grown. The collection of plants is limited chiefly grown for cutting flowers. The space for out-door flowers is confined to near the house and laid out in various designs. There are many of the leading sorts of hardy grapes, trained on trellises and now in full bearing, and seem to thrive well. The place is mostly in grass, producing good crops.

Mr. Edward Kurtz, whose residence is on Lexington street near Fremont street, is one of the oldest and most enthusiastic lovers of Flora. For sixty years he has, himself, cultivated his flowers, and during that time has accumulated a rare collection. No private collection excels his in Camellias, of which he has raised many fine varieties from the seed, and he has a great variety of Azaleas, with fine seedlings, equal to any now in cultivation. His garden is tastefully planted and edged with box. He has one long house for plants, which are much admired when in bloom for their profusion and variety of rich colors. Mr. Kurtz is well versed in plants and has all his life taken much interest in horticulture and floriculture. He has fine specimens of Clematis, and the finest plant in the country, of *Viburnum Macrocephalum*, 9 feet high; its flowers are white like the snow ball, but much larger. It should be generally cultivated. He has also a new *Hydrangea*—the *alba rosea*, the prettiest of all the tribe, presented to him by me, after my return from Europe, where I found it. Though over eighty years old, he is still with but little assistance, able to keep his large and valuable collection of plants in order and in fine healthy condition. During his long and useful life he has devoted his leisure hours chiefly to flowers, loving the study of nature above all other studies or pleasures.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Scotch Collies.

Every season sees an increased interest manifested in the Scotch Collie Shepherd Dogs, not merely for useful purposes on the farm—for which purpose they are eminently fitted by years of training and careful breeding—but as watch dogs and pets to have about a home. They are both useful and ornamental, and their growing popularity is based on substantial grounds. It has been only a few years since it was difficult to get a pure-bred specimen of this breed, but now there are several who make the breeding of the Collie a specialty, sending out choice stock at fair prices. In purchasing stock of this kind, however, it is best to do so only from a well known and responsible party, else the results are likely to be anything but satisfactory, for the simple reason that many breeders and farmers have permitted the original and good stock to be mixed up, either with the setter or other breeds, or with the different types of the same breed, that it is best to exercise a little caution in purchasing. The tendency to herd and drive stock is so strongly developed in the breed, even a two-thirds or half blood will frequently (tho' by no means always) do such excellent work as to mislead novices into believing him or her to be thoroughbred. When such an animal is coupled with one of the opposite sex, however, the admixture of foreign blood is readily seen in the irregularity of the offspring, in regards to color, markings, form, size, &c. A cross with a well haired setter bitch, such as the Gordon, makes fine animals, in appearance at least, tho' they are entirely worthless as breeders. As pets and watch dogs, they may answer the purposes well enough, but they are not pure-bred and should never be sold as such.

We have had so many inquiries, recently, asking for a description of the Collie, that we will endeavor to do so, tho' we

wish our readers to remember that we shall describe an animal which might be termed a standard one, and that all Collies, even tho' pure-bred and most excellent in point of usefulness, do not come up fully to this standard, in all particulars and points. All pure-bred fowls sold do not fully come up to the standard qualifications, tho' that does not argue impurity, but does regulate the price, in a great measure. The "pick of the litter" cannot be had at the same price as the other ones, which is a conclusion some would-be purchasers do not seem to realize.

There are two types, properly speaking, of the Scotch Collie Shepherd Dog, the smooth haired and the coarse haired or "rough coated," as it is generally termed, while these two types are frequently crossed, making an animal of medium height and coat and desirable as a house dog, on account of the shorter coat harboring less fleas.

The former type, or smooth haired one, is not a whit less intelligent than the other type named, and we have seen some truly wonderful performance done by them, in herding and driving stock. The average height of these animals, when fully grown, is about 15 inches, tho' they may go a little above or a little below that measurement. As their names indicate, they may have short, smooth coats of hair, with an occasional specimen having short, fine "brush pans" well set with hair. Their legs are usually smooth and muscular, and with flat, medium sized feet. They have well developed foreheads, the eyes set well apart and the nose sharp, shapely and well defined. The ears are small and do not stand "prick" or upright, while the neck is full, the body of good size and well rounded, the tail of medium size and well covered with hair, sometimes fringed with longer hair on the under side.

The general color of these smooth coated Collies is a solid black, in main color, with white markings on feet, tip of tail, nose,

breast and occasionally with a spot of white on the back of the neck, or with a collar of white. Occasionally we find them of different shades of grey, or with an admixture of fawn or tan, but this is the exception rather than the rule. This type of the Collie is, under the most favorable circumstances, more prolific than the rough coated type, usually having larger litters and with uninterrupted regularity for a number of years, though the difference, in this respect, is comparatively slight under ordinary circumstances and scarcely worthy of note.

The rough coated Collie, which is held in such high esteem all over the country, is the one which is sure to please those who want a handsome as well as a useful animal, —one large enough to defend property of all kinds, one which is handsome in form, color and markings, and one which has intelligence almost human in its intensity and method. From Canada to Texas, and from Maine to California can be found specimens of this type, and many of them could not be bought for hundreds of dollars, if at all, so greatly have they endeared themselves to their masters by acts of intelligence and usefulness as well as unparalleled faithfulness.

We sometimes hear persons say "as ungrateful as a dog," yet we defy any one to find a more faithful and trusting friend than a good dog is to a good master, for the dog is sure to imbibe more or less of the temper of his master, and this fact should be borne in mind in training the Collie, they can be made useless as well as useful.

It is utterly impossible, tho' but few seem to realize the fact, to buy a thoroughly trained dog, one which, when brought to his new home will at once go to work and perform the duties assigned to him exactly as his new master wishes them done.

In buying a trained setter or trained pointer, there is not the same trouble, for the simple reason that each particular kind

of game is hunted in about the same manner, while there is a certain alphabet of call, signals and commands, which all sportsmen know in common with the trained dogs. This is not, however, the case with the Collies, for nearly every man uses a different kind or style of signal or command, and when the dog has once thoroughly learned his lesson from one person he is expected to go to another and understand *his* orders and commands without having first learned them. Far more satisfaction is had by buying a pup or half grown dog and bringing him up "in the way he should go" on your own place.

The average height of the rough coated type of Scotch Collies is twenty inches at the shoulder, and the demand, especially from Texas and the large farms south and west, is for a large animal, from twenty-two to twenty-four inches high, tho' the desire to increase the size will have a tendency, we fear, to overshadow far more important considerations, the same as the desire to produce certain marks and points in the Jersey cow has frequently been carried out at the expense of utility. The head of this type of collie should be well developed at the forehead, with eyes well set apart and possessing that gleam of intelligence which is sure to arrest attention and command admiration. The ears should be from medium to small and "half pendant," the nose not long and pointed, but only *medium* in both particulars, and shapely. The body should be well rounded and shapely, and not large, loose and baggy, while the back should be broad and the rump but slightly sloping. The legs muscular, and the paws large, flat and cat-like. The tail should be large and full, and in excitement carried over (not on) the back. The coat should be long and full, with a soft, pily undercoat of short hair. The colors are various, the most common being black and white, or black and tan with white markings; others are fawn, fawn and white, black and tan, and admixtures of these colors.

E.

How to Train Collies.

[From the Forest and Stream.]

In reading the various sporting journals of the day, I frequently see articles upon the subject of educating and training setters, pointers and sporting dogs generally, but cannot remember ever seeing anything upon the education and training of my favorite dog, their non-sporting brother, the Scotch Collie, who, in his sphere, is as useful and valuable as any member of the canine race. And now, since the success of the collie trials, held under the auspices of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, at Philadelphia, in the latter part of September, and as it is more than likely that they will be repeated another year, and that other agricultural societies will follow suit, and inaugurate them as one of the attractions of their shows, I think it will not be amiss to give you my ideas in regard to their education and training.

I have owned collies all my life—good, useful and well-trained dogs—and in my walks and drives they are my constant companions. Master collie is a mischievous and fun-loving rascal, and even when well trained this love of mischief will show itself. There is now curled up at my feet, one of the handsomest collies in America. She has been shown at several bench shows and has always been placed, and besides is a first-rate worker on stock. She is always under my buggy when I am driving, "except" sometimes I allow two others to follow for a frolic and exercise. Now, here the "except" comes in. If by chance this crew spy a cur on the road, the mother collie will be off like a shot; out she goes from under the buggy, passing between the front wheels and the horse, throws her head back and gives a short quick bark or two, as much as to say, "Come on Punch and Judy; here's fun for us," and away they all go like a thunderbolt, until the cur is overhauled and tumbled about in the dust. Well, its all over in a jiffy and they come trotting back, I suppose laughing to themselves. I point my finger at her and say, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself!" Her head goes down, tail between her legs, she smacks her chops, whines, "Yes, but it was so much fun I could not resist the temptation; I'll not do so again—until next time." and next time the same thing is repeated.

For the first six months or so, the puppy

is allowed to do pretty much as he pleases, so long as he keeps his long nose out of the cabbage-pot, doesn't suck the eggs or worry the pets, for Master collie is a busy-body, and is nearly always in some kind of deviltry; but even at an earlier age than this, the collie may sometimes be seen gathering the chickens in a corner of the lot and manœuvring them as his ma does the sheep.

As a general rule we commence their education about the tenth month of the puppy's age; but we sometimes see them younger than this working stock like old stagers. I have one in my eye now that at five months old, would go to the pasture field, containing about sixty acres, drive out the cows and bring them home, a distance of over one mile. At six months old she was working sheep and obeying every sign and motion of her master.

The first thing I do is to make the dog love me. I treat him kindly, never kick nor strike him, and never deceive him. I talk to him and pet him until he knows every word I say. There is a great deal I assure you in this "love me." When he loves me and understands me, I take him into a room and there teach him to follow close to heel, and to stop at a whistle, to lie down when told, to go forward by motion of hand and to either right or left. I always stop my dogs with a whistle to attract their attention before giving an order by mouth or hand.

When I consider my youngster house-broken, that is, when he obeys my motions and whistle, I take him with sheep confined in a lane—and allow him to drive them with me, and by motions I keep him moving from one side of the lane to the other—when we are at the end of the lane I say, "Around them," motioning the way up the side and go with him and show him. When round them I stop him with a whistle, make him lie down and leave him; I then go in front of the sheep and tell him, "Bring them along." If he comes too close to the sheep, I stop him with a whistle and say, "Keep Wider,"—or "Slower." These lessons I repeat until I consider him nearly perfect in driving up and down the lane. I then commence to teach him to go from where I stand at one end of the lane to the other, and bring the sheep to me, this I do, by motioning the way and saying, "Far away;" and if he does not go, I go with him and show him what to do. When be-

hind the sheep I make him lie down, and I go to the spot where I first gave the order, and from there whistle him to bring them along. When he does this work to my satisfaction, I then allow him to the fields to drive the sheep from pasture, and here I repeat all my former lessons to him; I teach him to jump back and forth over a fence, and to bark when told, but never to bite; and when he attempts to use his teeth I punish him. Now as to punishment, as I said at first I never kick nor strike—I catch the collie around his nose and give him a shake or light tap on the ear with my hand, a cross word will cower him at once.

There is one thing I never like to do, that is to commence working my puppy on cattle. As a general rule it will not do, as the dog becomes too severe, and it gives trouble to afterwards break him of this habit. I commence first on sheep, and when he will work them carefully, I can then allow him to drive other stock.

Now, one other point and I am through. The old adage, "too many cooks spoil the broth," applies to Master Collie. If you wish your dog thoroughly trained, only one must work him, and that one I insist, must be patient and teach him quietly and gently. If you wish him spoiled and made worthless, allow the whole family to work him and you will succeed in this admirably.

COLLIE.

Salt for the Manure Pile.

Chemistry informs us that common salt, dissolved in water, and sprinkled over the piles of compost and stable manure, has the effect of arresting the escape and fixing the volatile parts of ammonia that, at almost all temperatures, is slowly arising from the heaps and being dissipated through the atmosphere. This is an important fact that every farmer should turn to his benefit. The action of the salt is said to be this: the gases—especially the important one of ammonia—arising from the manure unite with the muriatic acid of the salt, and the soda contained in the salt is liberated and quickly combines with the carbonic acid present, forming a carbonate of soda. Thus by the simple article of salt, the farmer may retain the ammonia that otherwise would be lost from his manure piles, and another useful agent, namely, the carbonate of soda

is introduced, which is a powerful solvent of all vegetable matter. The farmer should use all the salt he can get, and give an occasional sprinkling of it to his manure beds. All refuse salt, such as that used for salting fish and pork, should find its way to the barn yard. But we will attempt a more exact account of the character and action of salt.

Chloride of sodium (salt) acts upon ammoniacal salts by forming soda, all of which become active and efficient fertilizers. The farmer may witness some of these changes by mixing a little salt and hartshorn together in a cup. Salt is of little use applied on poor land deficient in vegetable matter, but on better soils and manure heaps the changes that have been alluded to are of the highest importance. It is good to sow alone on any land in good heart, and besides combining with ammonia and forming other compounds, is good as a dissolver of inert phosphate and potash-bearing material. Salt and plaster are the two great atmosphere robbers of nature, and as a fertilizer alone is worth more than the first cost as a top dressing to land, grass and manure heaps. The money often spent for fertilizers would be better invested in salt for the same purpose. Throw all the refuse salt you have on the compost heaps, and buy all that you can get from the stores.—*Rural Messenger.*

THE DAIRY.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Winter Dairying.

NUMBER THREE.

To make a prime article of winter butter and secure success, there must be an observance of certain rules, and to vary them as little as possible, if results of a profitable character are to be expected. It is not enough that the cows should have a clean, warm stable, but suitable food must be given in paying quantities and of milk forming elements. It need not be expected that a half fed cow will furnish a liberal mess of milk, rich in cream globules, for nature takes its share first to supply the active, living principle of life, and the balance, if any

there be, will go to supply the milk glands, so that the cow may be regarded as a machine that can be relied on only in proportion to her feed. The winter butter maker should feed liberally on highly concentrated foods, and in addition to the bright early cured clover and timothy, should feed liberally of oil cake, oat and corn meal, and in regular and uniform messes.

What the newly devised Silo may develop and make possible in winter dairying is not yet made manifest, but to feed a milch cow upon such large quantities of moist food, must, in cold weather, have a somewhat injurious effect, and besides we have the authority of Professor Arnold that the food of the ensilage develops alcohol, which, though not in large quantities goes into the butter and produces a low grade. The point made, is that the fermentation of the food is unnatural to the stomachs of the cows, and with unnatural food, the production of high grade goods is impossible.

The investigations that are now going forward have cleared up in a measure, many doubts, and have also produced definite knowledge in relation to the influence and the character of food and its bearing upon the milk product. It is now held that milk is not a secretion of the milk glands, but the liquified gland itself, a fact that goes far to explain why the same food given to different cows will not produce like results, and why some foods transmit their undesirable odors and tastes to the milk.

Taken for granted that the cow has been well fed upon good nutritious food, and clearly milked, the next consideration must be the care of the milk. To make butter of uniform quality, and flavor with distinct and even grain, the milk must be treated with a sameness and not subjected to extreme temperatures. Nothing so detracts from the value of the cream, as to have the room in which the milk and cream are kept vary in temperature from the freezing point to the high point of 80°. To secure this

uniformity a milk room will be needed, with some method of maintaining a regular heat, and the nearer the the temperature is held at 60°, from the time the milk is set until the final product is packed in the crock, the nearer the maker will be in realizing full success.

If butter making is to be carried on to any great extent, the best results can only be attained by proper facilities for handling the milk and cream, and an unvarying grade of good butter can only be secured by adopting and using them with a purpose to master the details, and familiarity with your work will be the only road to perfection. If an outfit has to be purchased, it will be best to invest in some one of the newly devised cabinet creameries, as they economise space, are handy, and the principle on which they work is, with judgment in their use, an almost absolute guarantee of success.

Western Reserve, Ohio. JOHN GOULD.

Wintering Dry Cows.

Every intelligent dairyman knows that a cow in good condition when she comes in will be much more profitable during the milking season than if poor. The tendency of a good cow is to turn all her feed into milk, and will often draw on her own body to increase the flow of milk. If she be in fine condition on coming in, this extra weight of flesh will all be drawn off in milk during the season. When he is putting weight upon his cows during the winter, he is as certainly producing milk as when he feeds during lactation. This extra flesh represents so much milk, and may be safely calculated at 6 lbs. of milk for every pound of extra flesh she puts on; and besides this deposit of milk in the body, subject to future draft, she will be able to apply more of the food she eats during the season to the production of milk. If she is poor when she comes in, then she must apply to her own wants, some of the food that might otherwise go to the production of milk. But care must be taken not to

give too much corn meal or other heating food while she is dry, for this may put her system into such feverish condition as to cause milk fever after coming in. The best of care should be taken of cows while dry.—*National Live Stock Journal, Chicago.*

Every Dairyman should Improve his Stock.

The prudent dairyman does not omit to take an account of stock, and strike a balance between cost and sale price of his goods. He knows that these facts are necessary for him to determine the proper conduct of his business. But it is not more urgent for his safety than for the safety of the dairyman's profits, that he should know the individual character of his cows. Let every dairyman begin at once, practically, to consider this matter, and determine upon his plan for improving his dairy. He should first fix his standard, below which he would keep no cow. This would require him to study the product of his dairy as he has not before. He must determine what amount of milk is required to produce a profit, and when that is determined, he will see that it is folly to keep a cow below that yield of milk. He will then strive to have all his cows reach that standard, and as many of them to surpass it as possible. He is now on the road to success; let him steadily pursue it and he will soon possess a dairy of cows whose profit will be visible to all beholders.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

A COMMON or what is called a *scrub* cow, belonging to Judge Payne, of Milan, Missouri, according to the St. Louis Journal of Agriculture, 14 years old, at nine calvings, has dropped 23 calves. One steer and three heifers dropped by this cow on the 26th of June, 1876, weighed on the same day in June, 1880, 1,700, 1,704, 1,574 and 1,536 pounds, altogether 6,514 pounds. In June, 1878, the cow dropped three heifer calves, which themselves calved before two years old, namely, in March, April and May, 1880, and all have proved good milkers.

In August of the present year, this same cow dropped four calves—one bull and three heifers. If any one can inform us of a cow that has equalled this at 14 years old we shall be glad to hear from him.

MARYLAND FARMER,

A STANDARD MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture & Rural Economy.

EZRA WHITMAN, Editor,

COL. W. W. W. BOWIE, Associate Editor.

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BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY, 1, 1881.

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☞ It will not be necessary to secure the subscribers all at one time. For instance, if any one wants the Mill we offer for 80 new subscribers, he can send the names in any number he chooses, and we will allow him a whole year to finish the club.

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☞ Our friends can do us a good turn by mentioning the MARYLAND FARMER to their neighbors, and suggesting to them to subscribe for it.

We shall send specimen numbers of the MARYLAND FARMER for February, to such persons as we may think likely may subscribe for the year 1881, and hope, that after they have carefully perused the contents, they will hand it over to their neighbors, and induce them also to subscribe. No farmer can more profitably spend a dollar than by subscribing to this journal for one year, during which time each month's number will be worth in practical information more than the whole year's subscription. We earnestly hope each of our old subscribers will do us the favor to canvass for us and send, at least, one name in addition to their own when they renew their subscription for 1881.

The United States Agricultural Society.

The United States Agricultural Society held its twenty-ninth Annual Meeting on the 12th of January, in the large parlor of the Ebbitt House, Washington City, D. C.

The president of the society, Hon. John Merryman presided, and Ben. Perley Moore the secretary since 1856, was at his post. After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Merryman delivered

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

"GENTLEMEN: It gives me great pleasure to welcome so many of the life-members of our time-honored association here to-day, as many of us are becoming advanced in years, and unwilling to undergo the hardships of a journey hither in the present inclement season. Several, who up to the last moment, had intended to have been with us to-day, were induced by the storm which prevailed early in this week, to change their minds. But they, with others have written me, to assure me and you all, that their interest is unabated in the only National Agricultural Association ever chartered by the Congress of the United States. The war may have prevented its usefulness for some years, but it still lives ready to enter upon a new career of prosperous action.

"Our society was organized as some of you personally remember, by a national agricultural convention, which met on the

14th of June, 1851, at the Smithsonian Institution in this city. That convention was composed of 153 delegates, representing twenty-three States, and the prominent State agricultural societies. Among those who were present during the session were President Fillmore, Senator Douglas, Secretary Daniel Webster, and the venerable G. W. P. Custis, the adopted son of the illustrious farmer of Mount Vernon.

"The society having been organized, held its first annual meeting in this city, in the year 1852, since which time they have been regularly continued. Up to 1861, when the war forced the society to suspend active operations, these annual meetings constituted in reality the the central "Board of Agriculture," recommended by Washington. Gentlemen from the different States—many of them accredited delegates from agricultural organizations, annually assembled to discuss such topics as were presented calculated to advance the cause of agricultural improvement. Interesting and valuable lectures were delivered by practical and scientific farmers, reports were submitted by committees specially appointed to examine new inventions and theories, and there was a general interchange of opinions.

"The society held its first annual exhibition at Springfield, Mass., on the 17th of October, 1853, and its subsequent exhibitions at Springfield, Ohio; Boston, Mass.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Louisville, Ky.; Richmond, Va.; Chicago, Ill., and Cincinnati, Ohio, besides a national trial of reapers and mowers at Syracuse, N. Y. Generally self-sustaining, the receipts on these occasions enabled the society to disburse upwards of \$250,000 for premiums and expenses, and they not only increased the efficiency of State and local associations, but called together larger assemblages of people than have ever convened upon other occasions; embracing not only our most intelligent yeomanry, but gentlemen of every art and profession from every portion of the widespread Union, evincing that the national pulse beat in unison with our own, and that the public voice was responsive to the call.

"When the operations of the society were suspended by the war, it published a *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*, and it had at Washington, a secretary's office and reading-room, where the members of the society and others interested in agricultural improvement, could meet as brothers

at a common home, and find a collection of objects in which they have a common interest. Many State and county societies contributed their published transactions, premium lists, the names of their officers, and other information, which were registered, and they received the publications of the society in return. A majority of the agricultural, and numerous other publishers contributed their periodicals and newspapers, and thus aided in forming a free agricultural library at the National Metropolis.

"The preparations made by the society for a national exhibition in 1861, which could not be held, exhausted the small balance in the society's treasury at that time. The society has not, however, a dollar of indebtedness. Upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars was received and disbursed by it between 1852 and 1862, and of this, the highest sum ever received by any one of its officers in a year, was six hundred dollars, which barely defrayed his personal expenses while attending the business of the society.

"Having thus, gentlemen, briefly reviewed what the United States Agricultural Society has done, I appeal to you to say whether its active operations shall be resumed, and it be made worthy of the great interest upon which the prosperity and happiness of our country is dependent. It is also for you to say whether you desire its officers to confer with the officers of the recently founded American Agricultural Association, with a view to the consolidation of the two organizations.

"Renewing my welcome to you all, and trusting that our deliberations may be harmonious, I am ready to proceed to the transaction of business.

A QUESTION OF CONSOLIDATION.

After some informal discussion, which showed a general disposition to have the society resume its active operations, the question of consolidation with the American Agricultural Association was referred to the president and secretary, with full power to take such action as they might deem proper.

On motion of Dr. Loring, Messrs. Loring, of Massachusetts, Lewis, of New Jersey, Hubbell, of Virginia, and George Merryman, of Maryland, and Dodge of the District of Columbia, were appointed a committee to retire and report a list of officers for the ensuing year. The committee retired, and on returning its secretary, Mr.

Dodge, reported the following list of officers, who were unanimously elected.

OFFICERS FOR 1881-'82.

President, John Merryman of Cockeysville Maryland; vice-presidents, Thomas Williams, Alabama; John Bidwell, California; Roger W. Woodbury, Colorado; R. H. Hyde, Connecticut; John Potter, Dakota; Henry M. Ridgely, Delaware; W. W. Corcoran, District of Columbia; George F. Drew, Florida; Alex. H. Stevens, Georgia; John Wentworth, Illinois; Claude Matthews, Indiana; C. C. Carpenter, Iowa; T. C. Henry, Kansas; C. M. Clay, Kentucky; J. Floyd King, Louisiana; J. R. Bardwell, Maine. Ezra Whitman, Maryland; George B. Loring, Massachusetts; Jonas H. McGowan, Michigan; C. W. Thompson, Minnesota; James L. Alcorn, Mississippi; J. C. Swallow, Missouri; D. H. Wheeler, Nebraska; John P. Jones, Nevada; John B. Clarke, New Hampshire; Mr. Rue, New Jersey; W. F. M. Army, New Mexico; J. W. Wadsworth, New York; Robert B. Vance, North Carolina; Mr. Robinson, Ohio; S. G. Reed, Oregon; David Taggart, Pennsylvania; A. E. Burnside, Rhode Island; D. Wyatt, Aiken, South Carolina; J. B. Killegrew, Tennessee; Ashbel Smith, Texas; George Q. Cannon, Utah; M. T. Sprague, Vermont; Josiah W. Ware, Virginia; Thomas H. Brents, Washington; Henry M. Matthews, West Virginia; Chester Hazen, Wisconsin.

Executive Committee.—Frederick Smyth, of New York, chairman; J. T. Updegraff, Ohio; Robert Beverly, Virginia; William S. King, Minnesota; N. M. Curtis, New York; D. W. Seiler, Pennsylvania; A. M. Fulford, Maryland; Secretary, Ben. Perley Poore, of Massachusetts, office at Washington; Treasurer, Wm. French, of New Hampshire, office at Washington.

On motion of Governor Smyth, it was resolved, that the congratulations of the United States Agricultural Society be conveyed to the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, its founder and friend.

ADDRESSES.

Dr. George B. Loring delivered an eloquent and able address on agricultural education, contrasting the past with the present, and showing what should be done in the future.

Professor Peter Collyer, of the Department of Agriculture, narrated the result of his researches into the manufacture of sugar from sorghum and cornstalks. When he

had concluded, there was a running colloquial debate on this interesting topic, in which a number of the gentlemen present participated.

On motion of Dr. French, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States Agricultural Society be presented to C. C. Willard, Esq., the proprietor of the Ebbitt House, for the use of the hall which he kindly gave the society for its meeting.

On motion of Mr. Whitman, the society adjourned *sine die*.

Agricultural Societies.

The Berks County, Pa. Agricultural and Horticultural Society at its late annual meeting, elected Jacob G. Zerr, President, Cyrus T. Fox, Secretary and all the other officers for the ensuing year. The 27th annual exhibition of the society will be held in the city of Reading, Pa., on 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th September, 1881.

St. Michael's Agricultural Society.—The January meeting of this society was held at "Solitude," the residence of the Hon. O. Hammond.—It being the annual meeting, and the period for electing officers, the following persons were chosen: President, C. W. Haddaway; Secretary, O. Hammond; Treasurer, J. E. McDaniel. The subject discussed was "The Speedy and Economical Improvement of Land," or formulated catichetically, "Take a farm of 160 acres of arable land—how would you divide it; how stock it? how crop it? how improve it? The discussion was participated in by all the members present, and was animated and very interesting.

Cecil County Maryland Agricultural Society lately elected managers for the ensuing year, which Board elect the executive officers. The reports of the Treasurer showed a balance in hand of \$145 over the expenditures at the first annual exhibition, held last year, while the report of the executive committee showed the indebtedness of the society to be only \$2,505 for their entire property. This is an admirable showing for so young an association, and must be very encouraging to the stockholders.

The Frederick County Maryland Agricultural Society—will hold its next annual

meeting as usual, from the 11th to the 14th October. All the old officers have been re-elected for the ensuing year.

Officers of the Kent County Agricultural Society elected at the last meeting of the Society.

HENRY T. MASSEY, President.

W. T. NICHOLSON, Vice-Pres.

SAMUEL VANNORT, Cor. Sec.

JOHN P. NICHOLSON, Fin. Sec.

JOS. H. HOSSENGER, Treasurer.

E. P. TANVIER, Librarian.

Journalistic.

THE SOUTHERN PLANTER AND FARMER, Rolfe S. Saunders, Editor and Proprietor, Richmond, Va., price \$2.00 per year. This valuable Monthly for January is on our table. The present number contains seventy-five pages of reading matter. It is really a capital number, and comes nearly up to what the editor said in December he would make this number, "the most valuable, interesting and attractive ever published of an agricultural on this continent." It is made up chiefly of contributions from very eminent writers, and is highly creditable to the industry of the editor who deserves the support and patronage of all who desire the prosperity of agriculture.

THE AMERICAN GARDEN, is a Quarterly Journal, only 25 cents a year. Edited by Dr. Hexamer and published by B. K. Bliss and Sons, New York City. This is a paper elegantly printed and illustrated. The editorials and contributions in each number are worth four times the price for the year. The premiums offered, are alone worth more than the cost for a year of this excellent little paper.

OUR LITTLE ONES, is the title of a profusely illustrated and admirable monthly, for the edification of small children. We commend it to parents. Russell Pub. Co., Fremont Street, Boston. Price \$1.50 per year.

LANDRETH'S RURAL REGISTER AND ALMANAC for 1881. A valuable little work

published annually by the Landreths for gratuitous distribution. Philadelphia, Pa. These celebrated old seedsmen have farms in new Jersey, Wisconsin and Virginia.

AFIELD AND AFLOAT.—A Sportsman's Journal, devoted to all out-door recreations. To those fond of hunting, fishing, etc., and natural history, it will be found very interesting. Published in Philadelphia, at \$2.00 per year.

The **BEE JOURNAL**, heretofore the leading monthly bee paper, becomes a *weekly* in 1881. It is the oldest apicultural journal in America, and is the first and only weekly in the world devoted to Bees and Honey. Every bee keeper in the country would find it to his interest to subscribe to it. Published by Thos. G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.

QUARTERLY REPORT of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, for the quarter ending December 31st, 1880, from J. K. Hudson, Secretary. It is highly interesting and instructive.

HIRAM SIBLEY & CO.'S SEED CATALOGUE has been received, and it is creditable in every respect to so large and well managed a seed house. This catalogue is elegantly illustrated with wood cuts and colored engravings of flowers and vegetables. This firm occupy an immense eight story warehouse, in Rochester, N. Y., and do no small share of the seed trade of the country. They raise the largest proportion of their stock on their own grounds, which enables them to guarantee its quality. It may be remembered by our readers that last summer we spoke of Mr. Sibley in one of our letters when on a northern trip. He is past seventy years and yet is active, robust and energetic as when in youth. Although a self-made man it may not be improper to say that he is the largest land holder in this country of extensive estates. He owns the great Sullivan farm in Illinois, of 40,000 acres—The Howland Island farm of 4000 acres near Syracuse, N. Y., and besides has four hundred other

farms of various sizes in New York, Illinois and Michigan. Of his other possessions, which are immense, we will not speak.

We now only mention Mr. Sibley's real estate to show the opportunity this firm has to grow its own seeds in different soils and latitudes most suitable to the perfection of the various sorts. This is eminently important in raising the purest and best garden and field seeds.

Fourth annual report by Dr. Thomas Pollard, Commissioner of Agriculture, of Virginia, has been received. From the hasty glance we have only had time to give it, we are much impressed with the careful elaboration of facts and the marked ability with which it is written. We shall refer to it again.

Farmers' Convention of Montgomery County. Held at Sandy Springs, 13th Jan'y, 1881.

We are greatly indebted to the President and Secretaries of the Convention for the following report of the proceedings, which will be perused by our readers with pleasure and profit. Such conventions of the bone and sinew of our population, must result in great good to agriculture. We regret that illness prevented us from being present and personally enjoying such an intellectual treat.

Soon after ten o'clock, one of the largest and most interesting assemblages of farmers and other friends of agriculture that has yet convened at their annual gatherings, met at the Lyceum, the beautiful day, excellent sleighing and leisure season bringing out not only the younger farmer, but many of the venerable men whose experiences were listened to with great interest. Not only was Montgomery well represented but visitors from Howard, Prince George's, Washington and Virginia participated in the pleasures of the occasion. About 200 attended during the day. The committee appointed for the purpose had selected for President, Henry C. Hallowell, for Vice-

Presidents, Charles Albert, Jas. Moore, John E. Willson, Benj. D. Palmer, Rd. Waters and W. B. Chichester.

Mr. Hallowell opened the proceedings by giving a cordial welcome to all persons and saying in substance, that the Convention was the result of a want. We all felt the need of a wider social intercourse, and the suggestion of Mr. Wm. H. Farquhar, that there should be a meeting of all the farmers clubs in the vicinity was taken up warmly. We held our first Convention in this hall eight years ago, and have met annually since with increasing attendance and business, until instead of holding a short afternoon session, we are now meeting at 10 A. M. On looking over the past year we find it has been a prosperous one, with abundant crops and good prices, but above all in real value is the fact that there is a greatly increased interest in agriculture and in co-operation. The pioneer upon the wide spreading prairie is almost absolutely independent, but as neighbors surround him and the country becomes thickly settled, they all feel the necessity of laws for their common good. So is it now with agriculture in the Nation. Each occupation must realize that there is a mutual obligation, farmers are dependent upon cities and trades, they, in turn, are dependent upon us. Farming is beginning to take its proper position, not Utopianly high, as its enthusiasts would have us believe, but its true place, equal to any other vocation.

On looking over the intelligent assembly before me, it is with sadness that we miss three familiar faces who have been summoned from our beautiful earth, which they aided to improve and adorn: James H. Stone, B. Rush Roberts and Samuel Elliott, all useful and upright men, and excellent farmers, left a gap in our midst that it will be hard to fill. But we must not dwell upon the past. It is the still water that breeds pestilence, the running stream that brings fertility and health. We must look forward and aim to do our parts towards reaching the ideal of the age. We, individuals make up the community, and as we improve the State improves. It is for this reason we have met here, to exchange thoughts, experiences and friendly greetings. The social life is an important one for all true development. I trust that you will bear in mind, that sometimes those who know the most talk the least, but that here we are all as though we were assembled

around our own firesides, and all must speak freely as friend to friend

The Secretary having read the minutes of last year, the President called for the report of the Committee on Railroad Crossings. In the absence of Chas. Abert, Wm. J. Thomas stated, that after consultation with the officials, they found the Railroad had not authority to put gates at the crossings of roads outside of the District of Columbia, but they promised to have flagmen stationed at dangerous places. Some of the members thought this had been done at Silver Spring; but that other places were as dangerous as ever. The Committee was continued and Jas. H. Bradley was added to it.

CANNING.

Henry Stabler and Albert Chandler reported that during the year they had put up 8400 cans of tomatoes, 49,400 cans of corn, and 2500 cans of peas.

HOG THISTLES.

A number of farmers alluded to this troublesome weed, and expressed a fear that it would be difficult to exterminate, as it seems to thrive with cultivation, and extends its roots very deep. One gentleman said he thought he perceived a flavor of tea at the end of some of the roots. Although Chandler stated that he thought he had mastered it by putting corn ground in buckwheat while the thistle was in full bloom, turning the buckwheat under when it was in bloom, and then following with wheat. He will report next year.

YIELD OF POTATOES.

A paper by our lamented fellow-farmer, B. Rush Roberts, was handed in, showing that in careful experiments the large potatoes planted whole were found to give a greatly increased yield, being more than double that of medium potatoes cut to 2 eyes. It took 42 baskets of large potatoes to plant an acre.

Robt. H. Miller reported that he had sowed salt on potatoes, at the rate of 500 lbs per acre, as an additional fertilizer, and that four-fifths of them failed to come up. P. T. Stabler reported similar experiments with Kainit. Dawson Lawrence drew attention to the fact that potatoes had as a general rule, come up badly, and asked the reason. Amongst those given, were the dry season, having been planted too late, and the mild winter having caused the tubers to exhaust themselves in operation. Thos. Waters asked if unleashed wood

ashes would improve potatoes. Decidedly not.

MILLET.

The raising of millet was brought up, and the opinion was expressed that more attention should be paid to it. Walter H. Brooke said he had raised 1½ tons per acre, and some had exceeded that amount.

Letters from Judges Bowie and Bouic were read, expressing regret at being unable to attend and showing great interest in farming and farmers.

ABSTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUBS.

Wm. H. Farquhar, on the part of the Senior Club, began his paper, by alluding to the remarkable fact that since its organization in 1844, it had never lost a member by death, and yet within five weeks we are called on to follow to the grave, three of the group we had known and cherished so long. Samuel Ellicott was the first to leave us. His privation of sight, which had not seemed to interfere with his unusual ability and merit as a farmer, had served to increase the interest we felt in meeting such a valued member. Our Club in nearly compact order, followed his remains on the 5th of November, to their last resting place among the Patuxent hills.

The death of B. Rush Roberts was next alluded to, his wide sphere of usefulness, and the vacant place he will leave amongst us. One week later, Jas. H. Stone died. No better farmer than he was to be found in the Club, or out.

After alluding to these sad losses he proceeded to other themes, as follows;

Much attention has been paid to the growth of peas, or more properly, beans as a crop, and for turning under as a fertilizer, and with satisfactory results.

Chestnut posts, 6½ feet long, delivered one mile distant, were worth from 7 to 10 cents.

Clover seed should be sowed when the ground is well cracked open. The date makes but little difference.

Peerless potatoes are liked best for the main crop. A majority think the "Smith Cider," is the best apple to plant for winter use.

A great difference of opinion was manifested as to the value of barn yard manure, ranging from 50 cents up to \$2.00 for a horse cart load of 40 cubic feet.

An interesting discussion arose as to the fertility of our best farms compared with

20 years ago. Many thought they had not improved, though all did not agree with this idea.

Attention was drawn to the increased use of the portable steam saw mill.

Cumberland coal is good for hogs. Blue stone soaked in alcohol is a cure for sore feet in horses. The proceedings of the Senior Club were closed with a transcript of the minutes of the last meeting, at the beautiful home and fertile farm of our deceased member, Samuel Ellicott, where everything was found in the usual admirable order, and we adjourned after a most pleasant meeting, little thinking that it was our last assembly there.

MONTGOMERY CLUB.

Henry H. Stabler reported the Montgomery Club as having prospered during the past year. The average attendance has been good, and in all ways it has been as beneficial, both socially and materially, as its friends could desire.

The practice of having an essay read at each meeting by a member appointed for the purpose has added much interest.

His extracts from the minutes of the Club are as follows:

An average of 12 working hours per day was thought to be right for both employee and laborer. Most members think it more satisfactory to furnish an allowance and let their hands board themselves.

The opinion is gaining ground that it is best to sow clover seed in the Fall as well as the Spring.

An experiment was reported, showing that Berkshire hogs weighing from 250 to 300 lbs., lose 12 lbs. in the hundred in dressing, while those weighing from 120 to 200, lose 24 lbs. to the hundred.

It is recommended to apply lime to the surface rather than plough it under.

It is thought to be most profitable to have a dairy herd fresh in August or September, rather than in the Spring.

The wheat crop of the Club averaged one bushel per acre less than last year, but the acreage was 30 per cent greater. The yield of corn was unprecedented.

Hay was only about half a crop.

The deficiency of hay was made up by sowing fodder, corn and millet,

The potatoe crop was fair.

Fruit was a failure, it being unnecessary to sign a temperance pledge as far as cider was concerned.

Eight members report having cleared

from the original forest within the past year, 46 acres, nearly all of which is now in cultivation.

One member had put in during the year, about one mile of blind ditch, averaging over four feet deep.

Averages of the leading crops of 16 members, during 1880;

Wheat 22½ bus. per acre, Corn 9½ bbls. per acre, Potatoes 99½ bus. per acre, Hay 7-10ths of a ton per acre.

11 members reported 43,107 lbs. of pork.

5 " " 17,262 " of butter.

8 " " \$1780 profit on fat cattle.

1 " " 120 " chicken eggs.

6 " " 964 " lambs & wool.

ENTERPRISE CLUB.

Granville Farquhar sent a report of this Club, stating that the average attendance during the past year, (12 meetings,) was 13½.

The crop reports show the year to have been a prosperous one, there have been no ravaging diseases amongst the stock, or injury to crops. We note extensive improvements at the homes of several of our members, among them being water arrangements in the dwellings, and a fine new barn. Several important enterprises are projected, one being a farmers' hotel and market, to which those present at a meeting in January agreed to take over \$3,000 worth of stock.

Last winter a Committee was appointed to visit the Commissioners of the District, to bring before them the bad condition of the 7th street road, and asking them to improve it. They were politely received and were assured that it would be attended to.

A member asked if he should get a self-binding harvester. 10 advised it and 2 would not.

Would the County Fair be more successful if held 3 days, or only 2. 4 voted for 3 days, 17 for 2 days.

The most frequently recurring question is, What plough shall I use? The latest answer was, Syracuse 5, Oliver 3, Commins 2, Roland 1, Wizard 1, Loudoun 1.

CROP REPORT.

Wheat, average per acre, 18 bus. Corn, average per acre, 9 bbls. Hay, average per acre, 5-6ths of a ton. Potatoes, average per acre, 104 bus. Pork, about 40,000 lbs. Butter, about 12,000 lbs.

With regard to the hay crop the members were greatly surprised, as at the June

meeting, half of the members thought there would only be ½ of a crop, and the rest from ¼ to ½ a crop. They made ¾ of a crop.

QUESTIONS.

The questions were next taken up, and much animated discussion ensued. Notwithstanding our having met at 10 o'clock, the afternoon wore away before the last was completed, so much was there to interest.

Q. 1. What is the least size of a farm on which it pays the manager better to superintend than to labor?

There were numerous amusing speeches on this question, many indicating a disinclination to labor, yet believing it necessary for success. Several thought that when a farm exceeded 250 acres, the owner could not afford to labor himself, while others thought that one man ought not to work more than he could assist in cultivating.

Q. 2. The subject of *Ensilage*, a method of preserving green provender was next taken up, and Robt. F. Roberts, of Alexandria, Virginia, gave an interesting account of his method of operations, and showed a sample which was examined by nearly all present. He finds his cattle eat it freely, and thinks it valuable. It does not affect the taste of the milk. The fodder is cut by a steam cutter, and is packed in the trenches by the tramping of a horse, and covered with a little straw and earth.

Q. 3. Would it be to the advantage of the farmers of Montgomery to have a public weigher of grain in Georgetown?

There was considerable discussion on this subject, and after an interchange of views a Committee consisting of Arthur Stabler, Upton Darby and G. W. C. Beall were appointed to take the whole subject into consideration.

Q. 4. Are sheep profitable? Unanimously, yes.

Q. 5. Is a farmer's hotel and market in Washington desirable?

Enterprise Club presented a valuable report, including an estimate for the cost of a lot, and with an account of the success of a similar movement in Philadelphia. The Convention endorsed the accompanying resolutions and a Committee consisting of B. H. Miller, Asa M. Stabler, and others, will at once proceed to carry out the undertaking if practicable.

Q. 6. If a young man is starting in life as a farmer, had he better go in debt for

land, at \$20.00 per acre, or for more highly improved land, at \$60.00 per acre, the buildings being equally good?

This was of such great interest that an entire afternoon would scarcely suffice for its consideration. Chas. F. Kirk and Dr. F. Thomas read able essays, advocating opposite sides, the former, for \$20.00 per acre, and the latter for \$60.00 per acre, and received the warm approbation of the meeting for their treatment of this question.

The other questions were passed over until next year.

The Convention decided to meet in the future at 10 o'clock, A. M.

A most liberal and enjoyable lunch had been provided by the members of the different Clubs, and a committee of ladies kindly came at 12 o'clock, to superintend its distribution. It was partaken of most heartily by the large company present, and with the excellent coffee, added materially to the enjoyment.

After a most instructive and socially delightful day, the Convention adjourned as the shades of evening began to fall. Among those who contributed to the interest of the occasion were Jos. H. Bradley, Gen. Nye, of Laurel; Wm. B. Sands, of Baltimore; the venerable Elisha R. Griffith, Wm. Bryan, Josiah W. Jones and other well known friends of agriculture.

ALLEN FARQUHAR, } Secretaries.
CHAS. F. KIRK. }

OUR LETTER BOX.

Complimentary Notices of the Maryland Farmer

ELLERSLIE, Balt. Co.

Mr. Whitman:

* * * * I would like to prove my appreciation of your most valuable journal by a personal canvass for it—as it deserves the support and consideration of intelligent farmers and planters in every section of the Middle States, but unfortunately the elixir of life and the water power that has so well heretofore worked the machinery of life, is now run so low that it cannot be repaired; therefore I have *elected* to be laid aside as *old iron to be melted for new*. My compliments and sincere New Year's greeting to Col. Bowie, and believe me ever a

friend of your enterprise to sustain the dignity of labor. With great regard,

Your Friend, A. K.

[The above is from a distinguished gentleman of the old school, who is, we think, not "old iron," but old gold, which we hope will long circulate in our midst as valued treasure,—EDS. MD. FAR.]

THE MOUND, Harford Co., Jan 6, 1881.

Mr. Whitman:

My Dear Sir:—Enclosed, you have my annual offering to the "Maryland Farmer." Well would it be, if all our investments yielded so profitable a return in proportion to the amount ventured.

To me, one of the most gratifying features of the Maryland Farmer, are the interesting and instructive contributions of my long esteemed and most genial friend, "Patuxent Planter." It is a pleasure to see that like a never failing spring, his wholesome advice and kindly suggestions continue to flow for the edification and improvement of its readers. Long may it be before the fountain head becomes dry.

Trusting, you, and all connected with the "Farmer" have had a pleasant time during the festive season of Christmas and New Year. With great regard,

Very truly yours, J. C. W.

WASH., D. C., Jan. 14, 1881.

Publisher Maryland Farmer.—Enclosed is one dollar for my subscription for 1881, for your valuable journal, almost any number of which is worth the price of the year's subscription, to the farmer or gardener.

Respectfully yours, H. F. B.

Mr. Whitman:

* * * pleased find enclosed the amount of my subscription to the Maryland Farmer. I have been gratified by the progress of your Magazine, not only in the public esteem, but in its literary excellence and have for that reason continued to take it long after I closed planting operations. Yours Truly, L. G. Napoleonville, La., Dec., 1880.

Henrietta took the Sweepstakes Premium at the Illinois State Fair of '78, and was one of the herd that took the Grand Prize for the best herd at the Illinois State Fairs and the great St. Louis Fairs of '78 and '79.



North Devon Cow, "Henrietta," No. 2383.

LIVE STOCK REGISTER.

North Devons.

The Country Gentleman says:

This breed is among the oldest distinctly cultivated breeds of England. They are beautifully formed, possessing excessive fineness and symmetry of frame, yet with sufficient bone and muscle to render them very hardy, and they are vigorous and hardy work cattle. They have great uniformity of appearance in every feature, size, shape, horns and color; and both steers and heifers on cutting up, are found to weigh much beyond the estimates which an eye accustomed only to ordinary breeds would have assigned to them. The flesh is finely marbled or mixed with alternate fat and lean, and is of superior quality and flavor. The cows invariably yield milk of great richness, and when appropriately bred, none surpass them for the quality of milk, butter and cheese they yield. Devon cattle are increasing in numbers at the present time more than any other breed, without much effort being made by their breeders to increase them. For a large portion of our country they are better adapted than any other, for several reasons. They are just the cattle for the hills. They are the cattle to stand cold and heat. Their butter brings the highest market prices in New York; and it always receives the premiums at our fairs when placed on exhibition. They are called by some, "little Devons," but we found cows among them that weigh 1200, 1300, and 1500 lbs., and bulls weighing from 1500 to 2100 lbs. and steers weighing as high as 2400 lbs. and upwards.

From the *Kentucky Live Stock Record*, Sept. 20, 1879;

"This Devon interest is one that should be sustained. The race can be bred in regions and on lands and under circumstances that the Short-horn cannot. And it is a most valuable one. Their beef is of the highest class. They are hardy, active, will feed fat where a Short-horn will not, and will live where the latter will starve. Besides, though smaller than the Short-horn, and one year later in maturing, yet when put to feed at pasture at four, with Short-horns, will make as many pounds of beef per acre as Short-horns; and their beef will have this advantage, that it will be better

in quality than that of the average Short-horn and will be in smaller cuts to meet family demand.

"Now, in regions where the Short-horns cannot go, there is no beast on earth to compare with the Devon to fill them. He will stand arctic cold and tropical heat. They flourish in Canada and in Cuba. Can anything be said more recommending? They are good milkers, rich in quality and good in quantity. They make the best and quietest work cattle, and where the Short-horns cannot go, should supplant all other cattle."

[We endorse all that our co-temporaries say of this breed of beautiful cattle. Their beauty, perfection of form, gentleness, hardiness, milking qualities, and superiority for beef and for work-oxen, recommend them strongly to the favor of the farmer who breeds, for practical uses and general purposes.—EDS. MD. FAR.]

Catalogues Received.

Seed catalogue of Huist & Son, 152 Houndsditch, London, England.

From Hiram Sibley & Co., Rochester, N. Y., and Chicago, Ill. Catalogue for 1881, of garden, field and flower seeds and bulbs.

From D. M. Ferry & Co. Detroit, Mich. Seed catalogue, beautifully illustrated, of which we have made mention elsewhere.

From Mr. Peter Henderson & Co., their large and excellent "*Catalogue of Everything for the Garden*," New York, 1881.

From Dillon and Co. A beautiful and useful catalogue of Norman French Horses. Bloomington, Ill.

JOHN P. MECHE, the great progressive farmer of England, died on Xmas day, 1880, in the 79th year of his age.

THE SUN ALMANAC FOR 1881, contains seventy-two pages of useful matter for daily reference. It is a New Year's gift from the proprietors of the SUN to all its regular subscribers. We have received a copy and duly appreciate a New Year's gift of such intrinsic worth.

History of the Maryland Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

CHAPTER XXVI.

The 12th Annual Exhibition of the society commenced on the 25th of October, 1859, in Frederick city, and continued open four days. The weather was delightful though cloudy—Indian summerish. The grounds contained about ten acres, and beautifully located within the city limits. Every part of the grounds within the enclosure was visible from any one point. The buildings were well located and ample for all the purposes of the society.

The stock exhibition was large and fine, of every variety and age. The show of horses was the finest ever seen at any State Fair. The Black Hawk breed was predominant, and among the horses was *Symmetry*, a Cleveland Bay, imported by Dr. J. R. Woods, of Virginia, just arrived from England. His perfect form and great beauty attracted much attention.

The display of cattle was excellent. Many Short-horns which had taken premiums at other State exhibitions were present. The herds of Messrs. Merryman, McHenry and Bowie were greatly admired.

The display of agricultural implements and machinery was quite extensive, embracing many new machines, improved plows, reapers, mowers and thrashers, the whole collection numbering some 600 articles.

The horticultural department was a striking feature, and well deserved the praises bestowed on it. It was a long shed adjoining the household department, and admirably arranged, divided into stalls like a market house. The products were numerous and of all the best specimens of the various fruits, flowers and vegetables, besides contributions of choice field crops, such as corn, tobacco, wheat and other small grain.

The Red Mercer and Peach Blow potatoes were magnificent.

The Fair was a great success, also the number of visitors, the attendance being an average of over 8000 each day.

The household department was filled with the greatest variety of beautiful specimens of woman's handiwork, and well deserved the handsome compliment President Merryman, in closing the exhibition, paid the ladies when he said:

"He thought it his duty to express his sincere thanks to the numerous friends of the society—the ladies, (God bless them) in particular." He thought the warmest thanks of every one connected with the society was due the ladies, for the great interest they took, not only in coming to the Fair, but in making and depositing articles to compete for prizes. He had been to many agricultural fairs, had been connected with many, but had never known or seen such a Household Department as the ladies had gotten up and sustained at the present Fair."

Among the many attractive spectacles, none were more admired than the grand cavalcade of horses and cattle around the track each day, and the trials of quick draft horses.

The trials of speed were excellent and called forth the plaudits of thousands.

On the last day of the meeting, the annual address was delivered by the Rev. John G. Morris, D. D. The learned gentleman well repaid the attention of the vast crowd by his able discourse upon the subject, of "The connexion between Agriculture and Natural History."

At this meeting the society elected all the officers for the ensuing year, re-electing Mr. Merryman, President for the third time.

At this meeting the Constitution was changed, so as to reduce the membership from \$3.00 to \$2.00 per year.

The President stated that he had caused a memorial to be prepared similar to that presented to the last Legislature, asking for relief so as to free the society from its pe-

cuniary embarrassment. On motion of Col. Oden Bowie, the society appointed ten members, along with the President and Vice-presidents to present the same to the next Legislature.

Although, this annual exhibition was a great success and well patronized, it financially was not encouraging, the receipts from all sources amounting to about \$4000, while the expences exceeded that sum by \$200.

The Legislature, during the winter of 1860, passed the bill appropriating \$5500, to relieve the State society, and an additional yearly sum of \$500 to aid it in holding its annual exhibition. This appropriation greatly relieved the society from the pressing liabilities under which it labored since the exhibition of 1857. It was then thought that the society could go on with brighter hopes and prospects, and soon relieve itself from debt, which was an incubus that had paralyzed its efforts and well nigh destroyed its popularity.

The executive committee held its quarterly meeting in Baltimore, on the 6th day of March, 1860, at which the President, with Messrs. J. H. McHenry and F. Cooke were authorized to receive the State's donation and to credit and settle the claims against the society. On motion of Col. Oden Bowie it was resolved that the President, with Messrs. Brune and McHenry be a committee to consult with the Canton Company, and other landholders in regard to a location for the future cattle shows, after the expiration of the claims of the society upon the present grounds.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Wheat—Hoeing and Early Harvest.

The general principles and practices of good farming have long and often been written and spoken upon, by very able as well as indifferent persons, until it has become as worn and hackneyed as a Fourth of July oration or Sunday address; yet,

the best, most profitable modes and systems are adopted but by few of all the great number of farmers.

Hence, it seems that "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little," are necessary to enlighten and influence the great mass of producers to practice the most successful known processes for securing largest yield of all crops, and at the same time to avoid impoverishing—running down—the land. And all of this should be received as food for reflection by all our thoughtful farmers, and *that* should stimulate *them* to some efforts for inducing the more heedless, of their class, to adopt more sensible modes.

The writer of this has had over thirty years of active farm-life and experience! and yet, he never passed a single year or even season without learning something new and advantageous in farm operations; and he is constantly discovering that there is yet a vast amount of facts and improvements to be learned.

And with some deference, yet confidently, he will venture to assert that, there are *two systems* or practices which should be generally understood and adopted among farmers, but which seem now to receive very little attention; and from our full conviction that they will result in increased profit and pleasure to the operators, we wish here to emphasize their recommendation to farmers and hope that agricultural editors and writers will give them emphatic and wide attention. Those systems are: Hoeing or Cultivating Wheat, in Drills; and Earlier Harvesting it.

That is, planting it in drills 15 to 18 inches apart, so as work among the crop with hoe or cultivator; and the cutting the wheat while it is still in the dough state. There is much reliable evidence and experience, proving the value of these practices, both in Europe and this country; and recently much of this testimony has been collected and published, in concise form,

in a little work, entitled "Wheat Culture" by D. S. Curtiss.

More detailed statements of the benefits and modes, of these subjects, will be given to the readers of the MARYLAND FARMER, in future numbers of it. D. S. C.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Chats with the Ladies for February.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"A dream of Spring in the winter,
In the dark—a gleam of light,
A promise of future glory,
To dazzle our aching sight.

The veil is lifted a moment,
We listen to birds that sing,
There is nothing but flowers and sunshine
In that dream of the coming Spring."

When all around us is still and the sky leaden, everywhere the snow lies pure and white, enshrouding the earth, only leafless trees, or the oaks with their long hanging brown leaves and the dark evergreens to diversify and beautify the dazzling, silvery sheen of snow, gleaming in the sunset rays, it is pleasant to let our thoughts conjure up the stirring, exhilarating scenes of Spring—to "dream of Spring."

This sweet season will soon be with us, and may be expected all the sooner as the winter has been so cold and severe. We all trust that it may come quickly for the sake of suffering humanity, helpless and unprotected animals, both domestic and wild, and the poor birds deprived of food, unless some thoughtful, kind human friend has relieved their hunger by "scattering crumbs" or other food about their haunts. What a lovely sight—little children scattering crumbs for perishing birds, that have been driven by stinging necessity to human dwellings for help.

But this scene of beautiful desolation will soon change, and the birds will sing the joyous songs of reviving nature, the snow-

drop and many colored crocus will suddenly appear, to be followed by green grass and spring flowers.

It is to be hoped that every homestead is prepared for the coming season, with parterres and garden plots filled with bulbs to gladden the sight in April and May, with the beautiful, yellow family of Narcissus, including the daffodils and the old John-quills, both double and single—the delight of children, and also the poet's flower, white Narcissus; and then, the Hyacinths, stately crown imperials, gorgeous tulips and gaudy parrot tulips, irises, and the whole tribe of interesting spring blooming bulbs. Those who have been so unfortunate as not to have these floral treasures for this season, should note it in their memories and next Autumn secure for themselves a full supply of these flowers that are the early harbingers of the crowd that is to follow during the year, until the frost again cuts them down with his icy scythe.

The most beautiful class of the Narcissus is the Polyanthus Narcissus. The flowers of most of the varieties are single, and all grow in clusters of from four to twelve or more flowers on one stem. They do not always flower the first Spring after planting, and occasionally a bud will produce but one flower on the stem, instead of a cluster. They are less hardy than the other varieties, but when well grown are very beautiful. The Tulip is the most brilliant and showy of the Spring flowering bulbs, and I think it is the easiest to raise, and the most sure to give satisfaction when healthy bulbs of good varieties are planted and taken care of. The safest class are the Duc Van Thol.

If you already have not a plentiful supply in your borders and flower garden, of the myrtle and the beautiful lily of the valley, as well as the old time shrubs, like mock orange, syringa, snow ball, lilac, althea, sweet scented shrub, barberry and Japan quince, the two last named among the earliest to bloom in Spring, you should

at the earliest possible moment supply yourself, for no flower garden is perfect or worthy the name, that has not most, if not all of these which are consecrated by father time.

Apple Marmalade.

A delicious apple marmalade, prepared carefully, will keep in perfect condition throughout the season, and is always a welcome addition to breakfast in winter. Pare, core and cut the apples in small pieces; put them in water with some lemon juice to keep them white; after a short interval take them out and drain them; weigh and put them in a stewpan with an equal quantity of sugar; add grated lemon peel, the juice of a lemon, some cinnamon sticks, and a pinch of salt. Place the stewpan over a brisk fire and cover it closely. When the apples are reduced to a pulp, stir the mixture until it becomes a proper consistency, and put the marmalade away in small pots.

WE regret that several valuable communications came to hand too late for this number, but will appear in the next; among these is a highly interesting letter on fish culture, by a friend on the Eastern Shore, giving his experience in raising the German Carp.

THANKS: We have to thank Messrs. D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich., for the nice lot of choice garden and flower seed, which accompanied their beautiful catalogue for 1881. This catalogue is one of the largest and most elegantly illustrated with cuts and colored plates, of any before issued by these well established and popular seedsmen, and rivals any of the many published this year. It will be sent free to all wishing to purchase seeds. See their advertisement in this number of the FARMER.

Ashland, Pa., June 3rd, 1880. A case of spavin that came under my observation was entirely cured by one bottle of your Kendall's Spavin Cure, and the Horse sold afterwards for two hundred dollarse. Yours truly, C. H. Barnard

When you meet with an accident, get a sprained ankle or are otherwise injured, dont go to the expense of sending for a doctor, but apply some of Kendall's Spavin Cure and you will experience relief at once. Read advertisement in another column.

THE POPULAR DEMAND.—So great has been the popular demand for the celebrated remedy Kidney-Wort, that it is having an immense sale from Maine to California. Some have found it inconvenient to prepare it from the dry compound. For such the proprietors now prepare it in liquid form. This can be procured at the druggists. It has precisely the same effect as the dry, but is very concentrated so that the dose is much smaller.—*Lowell Mail*.

"I AM ALL PLAYED OUT" is a common complaint. If you feel so, get a package of Kidney-Wort and take it and you will at once feel its tonic power. It renews the healthy action of the Kidneys, bowels and liver, and thus restores the natural life and strength to the weary body. It can now be had in either dry or liquid form, and in either way is always prompt and efficient in action.—*New Bedford Standard*.

The Marchal & Smith Organ Co., have so perfected the production of their *15 Stop Organs*, that they are able now to extend their low offer indefinitely. Thousands of their \$60 Organs have been sold since they first offered them, and their production in such immense quantities has enabled the manufacturers to *perfect* and economise their production.

GLASS.

For sale at a bargain in lots to suit, about 200 boxes, Baltimore glass, size, 7x9, apply to J. W. FRIZZELL, 478 W. Baltimore St., manufacturers of picture frames, mirrors, &c.



POMONA NURSERY! BLIGHT-PROOF PEARS.

Largest Berries.

Catalogues of Fruit Trees, Plants, and Flowers sent free.

WM. PARRY, Parry P. O., New Jersey.